



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Abramson et al.

Examiner:

Serial No.: 09/891,951

Group Art Unit:

Filed: June 26, 2001

Date: July 23, 2001

For: **PARALLEL EXECUTION MECHANISM FOR SPREADSHEETS**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Sir:

The undersigned hereby certifies that the attached **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT** was mailed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, with sufficient first-class postage, no special handling, on JULY 23, 2001, before 5:00 p.m., thereby ensuring that such document(s) will be in the hands of the U.S. Postal Service by the close of business this day. Thus, timely response has been made for filing an Information Disclosure Statement prior to the expiration of the shortened statutory period for the same ending **NONE**.

In the event a fee is required to effect the filing of this document, and the fee is not enclosed or insufficient, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which might be required, or credit any overpayment, to Account No. 50-0983.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attorney Docket No.: DSTC-A (51373-1)

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Washington, D.C. 20231**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

This invention relates to a method of implementing parallel execution of spreadsheet calculations in a conventional sequential spreadsheet by defining a custom function that passes arguments and a function identifier to an evaluation process that is run in parallel. Interim calculation results are stored in an evaluation table and final results are passed back to the spreadsheet.

The method can be embodied in an add-in that results in a decrease in the time necessary for a spreadsheet calculation.

As authorized and encouraged under 37 C.F.R. §1.197-1.99, Applicant hereby cites as a means of complying with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the following patents and/or documents, copies enclosed, which the Examiner should consider with respect to the above-identified United States Patent Application.

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENT		
U.S. PATENT/DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	INVENTOR/OWNER
5,862,400	January 19, 1999	Reed et al.
OTHER PRIOR ART		
An article entitled "Nimrod: A Tool for Performing Parametised Simulations using Distributed Workstations" from The 4 th IEEE Symposium on High Performance Distributed Computing, Virginia, August 1995, by D. ABRAMSON, R. SOSIC, J. GIDDY and B. HALL, School of Computing and Information Technology, Griffith University, Kessels Rd., Brisbane, Queensland, 4111.		

A copy of each publication is included for the express purpose of providing the Patent and Trademark Office with an ample opportunity to evaluate the same and to arrive at an independent assessment of its materiality, if any, with regard to the examination of the application.

In reviewing the enclosed copies of the above publications, the Examiner is requested to ignore any underscoring or highlighting which may appear because such markings may or may not have any relationship to the subject matter of the above-identified application. The copy being submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement is the best copy available at this time.

An examination of the present application considering the above documents is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCKINGHAM, DOOLITTLE & BURROUGHS, LLP

By: 

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«CT2:294601_1»

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Complete if Known

Application Number	09/891,951
Filing Date	June 26, 2001
First Named Inventor	Abramson
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	DSTC-A (51373-1)
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

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Sheet	1	of	1
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First Named Inventor	Abramson
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Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	DSTC-A (51373-1)



OTHER PRIOR ART -- NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

[illegible]Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

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